Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Please cancel claims 2-9 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein.

1. (Currently Amended) An ink jet ink composition comprising water, a humectant, and a hyperbranched polymeric dye comprising a hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore ~~pendant on the polymer chain or~~ incorporated into the polymer backbone.

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10. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore incorporated into the backbone thereof is a polyamide, polyester, polyether, vinylic polymer, polyimine, polyesteramide or polyurethane.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore incorporated into the polymer backbone is prepared by a chain polymerization of a monomer of the formula M^1-R^7-$M^2{}_m$ wherein R^7 is a linear or branched alkyl, carbonyl, or aromatic moiety containing a dye chromophore ~~and M^1, M^2 and m are defined as in Claim 4~~ ; M^1 and M^2 are reactive groups that react independently of each other in which M^1 is a polymerization group and M^2 is a precursor of a moiety M^{2*} which initiates the polymerization of M^1 as a result of being activated; and m is an integer of at least 1.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore incorporated into the polymer backbone is prepared by a condensation or addition polymerization of a monomer of the formula M^3-R^7-$M^4{}_p$ wherein R^7 ~~is defined in Claim 11 and M^3~~,

~~M^4 and p are defined as in Claim 5~~ is a linear or branched alkyl, carbonyl, or aromatic moiety containing a dye chromophore; M^3 and M^4 are groups that undergo a condensation or addition reaction; and p is an integer of at least 2.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymer having a dye chromophore incorporated into the polymer backbone is prepared by a condensation or addition polymerization of a monomer of the formula R^8-M^5_q and R^9-M^6_t wherein R^8 and R^9 are each independently a linear or branched alkyl or aromatic moiety, at least one of which contains a dye chromophore~~, and M^5, M^6, q and t are defined as in Claim 6~~; M^5 and M^6 are groups that undergo a condensation or addition reaction; q is an integer of at least 2; and t an integer of at least 3.

14. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said dye chromophore is a mono- or poly-azo dye, basic dye, phthalocyanine dye, methine or polymethine dye, merocyanine dye, azamethine dye, quinophthalone dye, thiazine dye, oxazine dye, anthraquinone or metal-complex dye.

15. (Original) The composition of Claim 14 wherein said mono- or poly-azo dye is a pyrazoleazoindole.

16. (Original) The composition of Claim 14 wherein said metal-complex dye is a transition metal complex of an 8-heterocyclylazo-5-hydroxyquinoline.

17. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said humectant is diethylene glycol, glycerol or diethylene glycol monobutylether.

18. (Original) The composition of Claim 1 wherein said hyperbranched polymeric dye comprises about 0.2 to about 20 % by weight of said ink jet ink composition.